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## CITY OF NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS

### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

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**To:** Mayor David B. Cohen  
**Fr:** Charles Eisenberg, Chair, Economic Development Commission  
**Re:** EDC Annual Report  
**Dt:** April 3, 2003

In compliance with City Ordinance Article 5, Section 22-75 (g) (10), the Economic Development Commission is submitting its annual report of activities and recommendations.

The annual report describes the projects and activities undertaken in 2002 and identifies goals for 2003. A complete list of Commission members is also included.

Please transmit the attached report to the Board of Aldermen.



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### ANNUAL REPORT TO THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN

#### *I. Background*

The Economic Development Commission (EDC) was established under General Laws chapter 40, section 8A to promote and develop business and industry within the City of Newton. The Commission was charged with strengthening the local economy leading to new job opportunities for residents and expansion of the City's tax base. City Ordinance Article 5, Section 22-75 lays out the governing provisions as summarized below:

1. The Commission shall consist of 15 members appointed by the Mayor.
2. The Commission has the power and duty to:
  - study, investigate, and appraise economic conditions and trends;
  - promote, assist, and encourage the preservation, development and location of new and existing Newton industry, business and commerce;
  - investigate and assist in the establishment of commercial projects and identify appropriate commercial areas and zones for such establishment;
  - prepare and distribute informational publications;
  - cooperate with civic agencies/commissions/associations, state/federal agencies, municipal departments and officials, and business associations and organizations;
  - advise and make recommendations to appropriate officials, agencies, boards, department, and commissions of the City.

This report is prepared and submitted to the Board of Aldermen in compliance with City Ordinance Article 5, Section 22-75 (g) (10).

#### *II. 2002 Highlights*

The Economic Development Commission continues to advance its mission by moving forward on its existing projects as well as identifying and working on new tasks. The following is a summary of major projects in EDC's pipeline; more detailed information is available through the attached meeting minutes.

**Comprehensive Planning** – EDC is working with the Comprehensive Planning Advisory Committee (CPAC) in drafting the City's economic development strategy. Two EDC members also serve on CPAC and others have attended CPAC meetings.

- Jerry Adams of EDC is spearheading this effort. He has prepared a draft outline and has incorporated initial input from other Commission members. The strategy will be incorporated as a component of the comprehensive plan.



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- In 2003, EDC will continue developing the economic development strategy. The strategy will consider different growth scenarios and recommend a preferred alternative based on past, present and future economic climate, socioeconomic data, and core values as identified in the Framework Plan and other public documents. The timeframe for completion is in coordination with CPAC's schedule.

**Newton Centre Triangle** – The subcommittee, chaired by Bruce Gold, is looking at reuse options for the Newton Centre Triangle and surrounding area to promote economic vitality and enhance the overall quality of life for all Newton residents. In doing so, the subcommittee:

- Reviewed the work completed by the MIT students in Fall 2001, considered different alternatives for revitalizing the area, and assessed the feasibility of a design competition.
- In 2003, EDC will develop a more detailed workplan and seek to acquire preliminary funding to undertake predevelopment/design initiatives.

**Daly Ice Rink** – Roger Matthews chairs a subcommittee investigating ways to improve the MDC owned and operated Daly Ice Rink.

- The subcommittee met with Representative Peter Koutoujian to obtain local legislative support. This meeting led to the Representative inserting a line item in the Environmental Bond Bill. The subcommittee also met with MDC personnel to explore options for improving the facilities at the Daly Ice Rink and investigated the potential use of Community Preservation Act funds for financing of this project.
- In 2003, EDC will follow Governor Romney's decision to disband MDC and how that decision will impact EDC's effort.

**Other** – EDC undertook a wide range of activities including the following:

- Held a joint meeting with the Newton Telecommunications Advisory Board to discuss the impact of telecommunications on economic development and vice versa.
- Respond to the Zoning and Planning Commissions on items referred to EDC. Alderman Brian Yates had previously docketed three items for the EDC. A memo responding to those items was submitted the Zoning and Planning Committee.
- Responded with a memo to the Land Use Committee on Petition #167-02 Sabra Restaurant.
- Concerned with the change in use from commercial to institutional, attended the TAC/Jewish Community Day School public meeting.
- Responded to Petition #317-01 proposing that Section 30-11 (d)(9), requiring a special permit for "businesses of whatever size which hold a Common Victualler-All Alcoholic or Common Victualler-Wine/Malt Beverages license issued by the licensing authority of the city;" be amended by deleting such provision.
- Requested and attended a presentation by the City's Chief Budget Office, Sandy Pooler, to better understand the City's fiscal condition.
- Attended Mayor's Village Business meetings.



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- Communicate with the Chamber of Commerce and other economic development organizations.
- In 2003, EDC will continue to undertake activities and explore that relates to its charge.

#### *III. Commission Members*

Mayor David Cohen appointed and the Board of Aldermen approved two new members to the Economic Development Commission: Jerry Adams and Jack Leader. Bruce Gold, Peter Kai Jung Lew, and Allen Weltz were reappointed. Dan Pellegrini resigned due to conflicting time demands.